

The Monthly Meeting of the Pilton Parish Council
was held in the Pilton Village Hall
on Wednesday 5 March 2014 at 7.30pm

Present: Councillors Sandra Howe (Chairman)
Robert Kearle (Vice Chairman)
Audrey Brown
Dave Drew
Elizabeth Elkin
Roger Noble
Kelly Sumner
Jacquelyn Taylor
Clerk

40 members of the public

CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS: Mobile phones should be switched off please.

APOLOGIES: were received from MDC representative Councillor Nigel Hewitt-Cooper, PCSO Guy Dury and Parish Councillor Paul Warry (Treasurer).

MINUTES: of the meeting held on 5 February 2014 were agreed and signed.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

Item 5i Freedom Cottage tree works: Councillor Kearle declared a prejudicial interest (consultation).

Item 5iii The Dell planning: Councillor Howe declared a prejudicial interest (neighbour). Councillor Kearle declared a personal interest.

Item 5iv Old Burford Farm planning: Councillor Kearle declared a personal interest.

Item 6iv Bier House: Councillor Howe declared a prejudicial interest (Pilton Players Chairman).

Item 14 Festival: Councillors Kearle, Brown and Taylor declared a prejudicial interest (employment, employment and bed and breakfast) respectively (Dispensations approved). Councillors Elkin, Drew, Noble, Sumner and Howe declared a personal interest (ticket).

Councillors Drew and Kearle declared in respect of planning applications "I do not have a declaration of interest but I might do in the future".

Councillor Kearle left the room.

PLANNING:

14/07 2014/0265/TCA Proposed felling of an ash tree, reduction of conifers and trimming of a larch – Freedom Cottage, Cumhill Lane – WORKS/FELLING TREES IN A CA.

The Chairman closed the meeting for the public to speak.

The Chairman re-opened the meeting.

Councillors recommended REFUSAL.

Reasons – Councillors would prefer the dead branches to be cut from the Ash tree and periodic reports made of its condition rather than felling it completely.

Councillor Kearle returned.

14/08 2014/0293/HSE Proposed single storey side extension. Raise pitch on existing lean to on side elevation – The Retreat, Park Hill – HOUSEHOLDER APPLICATION.

Councillors recommended APPROVAL.

Councillor Howe left the room.

Councillor Kearle took the chair.



14/09 2014/0091/LBC Removal of existing window, alteration of opening and installation of new French windows in south elevation, and internal alterations to the kitchen – The Dell, Weir Lane – LISTED BUILDING CONSENT.
Councillors recommended APPROVAL.

Councillor Howe returned and took the chair.

14/10 New slurry tower and dairy building – Old Burford Farm – FULL APPLICATION.
Councillors recommended APPROVAL.

MDC planning decisions and recommendations :

2013/2113 Erection of a detached dwelling, amendment to 2011/2100 – land south of Little Orchard – APPROVAL WITH CONDITIONS.

2013/2213/TCA Proposed works to trees in a CA – Brooklea, John Beales Hill – TPO not required (NO OBJECTION).

2013/2319/FUL Erection of building to cover an existing open yard – Cockmill Lane – APPROVAL WITH CONDITIONS.

2014/0025/FUL Retrospective application for the erection of a folly – land to SW of Wynton, Higher Westholme – REFUSAL.

Enforcement: None.

MATTERS ARISING:

Highways: The Clerk read an email from Neil Corp confirming that an inspection of the following items has been arranged and safety defects identified for action as necessary:-

Bread Street road edge, Top Street drains, East Town drains, Neat Lane flooding and Neat Lane and Lower Street covers.

Signposts and lettering:

Higher Westholme Road: The Clerk read an email from Richard Raynsford stating that he would be very pleased to see the fingerpost replaced and happy to have it on his property.

Signs on the main road: The Chairman read an email from Mr Maurice Davies and showed photographs of the signs on the main road with small letters instead of capital letters. After discussion the Clerk was asked to contact Mr Corp to seek an explanation and possible correction.

Pilton Playing Field sign “Children playing”: The Chairman advised that Mr George West reported the sign had fallen down. The Chairman contacted Mr Corp who stated that an inspection had been arranged and necessary action would be taken.

Muddy Lane, Cockmill signs: Councillors thanked Councillor Kearle for replacing the signs which had been repaired.

West Compton flooding: The Clerk reported that Harriet Ray was sending a proposal for funding.

Report of “Walkabout”– Monday 17 February 2014: Councillor Noble reported meeting Mr Corp and travelling 27 miles around the village discussing the following:

Very bad potholes to be repaired as an emergency but otherwise SCC have no money until 1 April 2014.

Painting the recently repaired finger posts and arms.

Moss growth on Cockmill ford bridge.

Trees on the main road at the junction with Lamberts Hill.

Owners identified to receive letters regarding hedges and ditches.

Condition of the bridge on the ridge road and rubbish on the land.

Councillor Noble stated that Mr Corp suggested some of the work could be done by the Parish Council. The Clerk was asked to contact Mr Corp and ask him to put in writing the works the Parish Council are able to carry out.

MA

30mph speed extension: An email received from Jeff Bunting of SCC stated that they will endeavour to have the new speed limit signs and village name plates in place before the end of the financial year.

Councillor Howe left the room.

Councillor Kearle took the chair.

Bier House:

Update: The Clerk advised that Killens had received interest.

Letter from Pilton parishioners and signatures: All Councillors had received a copy of the letter and 122 parishioners' signatures objecting to the sale of the Bier House.

Letter from John Boucher: Prior to the meeting the Clerk sent Councillors a copy of a letter from John Boucher regarding the Bier House which contained some valid points. The Clerk was asked to formally thank him.

Letter and cheque from Daphne Cannock: Councillor Kearle read a letter from Daphne Cannock which enclosed a cheque for £500. The Clerk reported acknowledging receipt. It was agreed to hold the cheque for now.

Councillor Kearle closed the meeting for the public to speak.
Councillor Kearle re-opened the meeting.

The Clerk read an email from the donor's solicitor confirming that she was happy for the Bier House to be sold as long as the proceeds were used for the community.

Councillor Kearle read a letter from Joe King on behalf of Gabriel's Orchard stating that the conditions were so onerous financially, that they felt they could not proceed.

Councillors acknowledged the strength of feeling against the sale but would not be withdrawing it.

Councillor Howe returned and took the chair.

Police Report: The Chairman read the report from 4 February to 4 March prepared by PCSO Dury as follows: Mis-dialled 999 call; further issues on the Cock and Bull Drove; cows in East Compton, Police attend; attempted break of a garage in East Compton; tree in the road Parsons Batch, Highways dealing; injury accident at Lamberts Hill, emergency services declined; sheep in Pylle Road, Police attend; fallen tree in Burford, Highways dealing; concern for animal welfare, East Compton; report of erratic driving in East Compton; vehicle broken down near Conduit Square.

Affordable housing: It was reported that the Government funding for the scheme was on hold at present.

Parish Hall deeds: The Clerk reported receiving a letter from Mr Boucher advising that the Parish Hall deeds were handed over to the Hall Trustees in 2003.

Litter pick: The Chairman advised that the litter pick organised for Saturday 1 March had been cancelled. The Chairman and Councillor Noble reported that the ASBO's had collected 13 bags from Knowle Lane to Stumps Cross. The Clerk was asked to thank them. Councillors agreed to organise another litter pick for Saturday 29 March 2014.

FOOTPATHS:

Footpath meeting date – Wednesday 2 April 2014 at 6.45pm:

Mount Pleasant bridleway: The Clerk read an email from Clare Haskins SCC Rights of Way advising that there was nothing wrong with the bridleway at Mount Pleasant.

SMT

SM16/52 obstruction: The Clerk advised Councillors of a fault notification received from SCC Public Rights of Way regarding two large boulders blocking the footpath at Bush Lane/Cock and Bull Lane. An email from a resident had also been received questioning the legality of the obstruction. The Clerk read an email from Mr Coate of SCC asking if the Parish Council had ordered the boulders to be placed on the footpath or if they had any knowledge. Councillor Noble explained that Mr Strickland's agent had carried out the work. The Clerk agreed to advise SCC.

FINANCE:

Financial Statement: The Clerk circulated the Treasurer's Financial Statement.

Cheques drawn:

001726	Village Hall hire	10.00
001727	Harvey Bailey – Burial Ground work	470.00
001728	Mrs J Warry – salary	168.22
001729	Mrs W Lynn – salary	26.00

SCC Community Scheme with health and well being in mind: Councillor Taylor reported that an application had been submitted for a free runner (fitness equipment) to be positioned at the Playing Field.

Prince of Wales Award - £1000 for the community: Councillor Taylor reported that this was in hand.

Donations to Flood Relief Fund administered by the Royal Bath & West Society: Councillors agreed to donate £50.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Pilton Conservation Area Appraisal: Robert Palmer the Assistant Conservation Officer of MDC had prepared a draft Pilton Conservation Area Appraisal for public consultation to end on 14 March 2014. The final version of the document to be produced and put forward for adoption by the Council. Councillors Elkin and Kearle advised that they had numerous amendments.

The Chairman closed the meeting for the public to speak.
The Chairman re-opened the meeting.

Pilton Village and Community Plans: The Clerk advised Councillors that Ian Bowen, Principal Planning Policy Officer of MDC had asked if Pilton had produced any Parish Plans. Councillors agreed the Clerk obtain more information and invite Mr Bowen to the Annual Parish Meeting.

SALC Event bookings: The Clerk reported that no one had requested attending any courses.

Access to minutes: The Clerk read an email from John Cannock requesting access to minutes other than requesting copies from the Clerk. Councillors agreed that the agenda and approved minutes could go on the village website.

Circulation:

- War Memorial Trust Bulletin – February 2014
- Rural Services Network 3, 10, 17 and 24 February
- Rural Services Network – Rural Opportunities Bulletin – February 2014
- Rural Services Network – Spotlight on the heart of the village
- Rural Vulnerability Service – February 2014
- The Big Allotment Challenge – copy sent to Paula Jordon
- Historic Towns Forum – February Newsletter
- Somerset Levels Relief Fund – Royal Bath and West Society
- Somerset Community Foundation – Flood Relief Newsletter – February 2014
- Environment Agency – news release – dredging on the rivers Tone and Parrett
- Local Audit Accountability Act – The Chairman asked Councillors to read



Councillor Elkin asked the Clerk if any of the above could go on the village website.

WAR MEMORIAL:

Path to steps and further works: Councillor Kearle reported that he had been in contact with Chris Frewin.

BURIAL GROUND:

Maintenance reports: Councillor Drew produced the maintenance reports which were all ok.

PILTON PLAYING FIELDS:

Philip Eavis' emails of 8 and 16 February: The Chairman read the emails which queried the change in the management committee and the financial assets.

Emails to Trustees solicitors and their reply: The Clerk reported passing Philip Eavis' emails to the Trustees solicitors for the trustees response. The Chairman read the Trustees reply confirming that the Charity Commissioners had given advice and that the financial assets were to be held as a designated or a restricted fund upon the trusts of the 1966 Deed as amended. The Clerk confirmed that a copy of the Trustees reply had been sent to Philip Eavis.

The Chairman closed the meeting for the public to speak.
The Chairman re-opened the meeting.

Councillor Sumner proposed the Parish Council seek independent legal advice seconded by Councillor Drew 5 for 2 against.

Letter from John Boucher: This letter is the same as the letter under the Bier House.

ITEMS FOR COUNCIL'S INFORMATION:

Dog mess in public areas: The Chairman read an email from Mrs Sheelagh Allen regarding dog mess around the village.

Roundabout report:

Speeding traffic through village.

Litter pick 29 March 2014.

Dog mess – Playing Field, Tithe Barn and verges.

Councillors Brown and Kearle left the meeting.

Highways: Two further pot holes to report to Highways Totterdown Lane and Perridge.

FESTIVAL:

Minutes - Tuesday 18 February 2014: Councillors all received a copy of the minutes (a copy attached to these minutes).

Second meeting – Wednesday 16 April 2014 at 6pm:

Third meeting – May 2014:

Event Management Plan – 1st Draft Submission for 27,28,29 June 2014: Councillors Elkin, Howe and Noble confirmed that they had all looked at it.

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday 2 April 2014 7.30pm.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.50pm.

*J. M. Howe
02/04/2014.*